



**File Code:** 2230; 2210  
**Date:** May 18, 2021

Tod Radelfinger  
Bently Ranch  
PO Box 127  
Minden, NV  
89423

Dear Tod Radelfinger

The following letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the Little Walker C&H and Junction C&H Allotments for the 2021 grazing season on the Bridgeport Ranger District. This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, please contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

#### PERMITTED USE

The following is a summary of permitted use which expires 12/31/2023.

ALLOTMENT	CLASS	NUMBER (on/off)	SEASON
Little Walker C&H	Cow/Calf	206	6/16-9/15
Junction C&H	Cow/Calf	172 (on) / 82 (off)	6/16-8/24

#### AUTHORIZED USE

The following is a summary of authorized use for the 2021 grazing season.

ALLOTMENT	KIND/CLASS	NUMBER	SEASON
Little Walker C&H	Cow/Calf	206	7/5-9/15
Junction C&H	Cow/Calf	172 (on) / 82 (off)	6/16-8/24



The Junction C&H allotment is managed under a rotation pattern. The 2021 grazing season corresponds to Year 1 of this rotation and is as follows:

UNIT	ORDER	SEASON
Kirman	1st	6/16 to 8/24
Upper Pickel*	2nd	
Middle Pickel	3rd	
Upper Pickel*	4th	
River	5th	
Lower Pickel	REST	
Poore	REST	
Little Walker Riparian	REST	
Middle Pickel Riparian	REST	
Silver Creek**	As needed	

\*Upper Pickel Unit is authorized for two entries during the season.

\*\*You are authorized to run in the Silver Creek unit during the grazing season until allowable use standards are met within the unit.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the permittee should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the authorized officer. Approval of a request for permittee convenience nonuse must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

### ALLOWABLE USE

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Little Walker C&H, where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at 50% use of key herbaceous species.

Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

### *Upland Sites:*

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Maximum Use</u>
Unit I & 2	Bitterbrush	30%
	All other Key Species	50%
Unit 2	All Key Species	50%
Unit 3, 4 & 5	All Key Species	50%

**Unit 1:** Sawmill, Long Valley and New Range.

**Unit 2:** Wheeler Stockade

**Unit 3:** Willow Flat, Rickey, Deep Wash, and Mud Springs.

**Unit 4:** Upper Molybdenite

**Unit 5:** Cow camp.

*Key Species list:*

Uplands: bitterbrush, western needlegrass, California needlegrass, Nevada needlegrass, and mutton bluegrass

Aspen stands: regenerating aspen and forbs seedings: smooth brome and crested wheatgrass

Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotment, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure Number 1 (BO File No. 2017-F-0083), the HTNF shall fully implement the following terms and conditions on the Little Walker C&H allotment:

- livestock utilization of riparian/meadow herbaceous cover within occupied, critical habitat, or suitable habitat for SNYLF and YT will be grazed to early seral standards and shall not exceed 30 percent utilization or minimum 6-inch stubble height;
- if meadow ecological status within occupied, critical habitat, or suitable habitat for SNYLF and YT is later determined to be in late seral status, then livestock utilization of meadow herbaceous cover shall not exceed 40 percent utilization or minimum 4-inch stubble height;
- if meadow ecological status within occupied, critical habitat, or suitable habitat for the SNYLF and YT is determined to be in early seral status and has greater than 10 percent of the meadow area in bare soil and active erosion, the meadow area shall require total rest from grazing until the meadow has recovered and has moved to mid- or late seral status (2004) Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Standard and Guide #120);
- within occupied, critical habitat, or suitable habitat for SNYLF and YT livestock utilization of sage and mountain brush plant communities can be grazed a maximum of 45 percent of the current annual growth of key grasses and 40 percent of the current annual growth of bitterbrush;
- livestock utilization of riparian woody vegetation (including aspen) shall not exceed 20 percent of the annual leader growth of mature riparian shrubs within all pastures and allotments with occupied habitat, critical habitat, or suitable habitat for SNYLF and YT;

The following use standards apply to the Junction C&H allotment:

- Minimum of 3-inch stubble height remaining on herbaceous species in irrigated pastures.
- Maximum 35% removal of current annual growth of key riparian shrubs in irrigated pastures.
- Maximum 55% removal of current annual growth of key riparian and upland herbaceous species.
- Maximum 25% removal of current annual growth of key riparian shrubs in non-irrigated pastures.
- Maximum 50% removal of current annual growth of key upland shrubs.

**REPORTING**

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please return the forms by **November 30, 2021**. Failure to return actual use and improvement maintenance reporting could result in **Non-Compliance** with the terms and conditions of your permit.

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT**

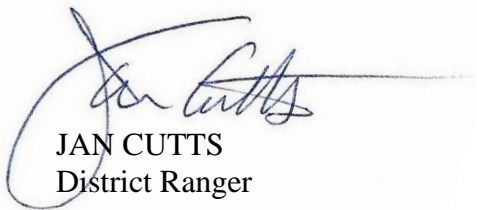
The 2021 grazing fee is \$1.35 per head month.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

The Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed on March 5, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal Law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). You and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal)

If you have any questions or concerns about the management of your permitted allotments, please contact the district range staff: Aaron Coogan at (760) 932-5850 or [aaron.coogan@usda.gov](mailto:aaron.coogan@usda.gov)

Sincerely



JAN CUTTS  
District Ranger